

What is claimed is:

- 5           1.    A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an isolated polypeptide comprising a paralogue of EBA-175 polypeptide sequence.
- 10           2.    The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1, wherein the paralogue of EBA-175 polypeptide sequence is encoded by the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 15           3.    The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1, further comprising an isolated sialic acid binding protein (SABP) binding domain polypeptide in an amount sufficient to induce a protective immune response to *Plasmodium falciparum* merozoites in a mammal.
- 20           4.    An isolated polypeptide comprising a paralogue of EBA-175 polypeptide sequence.
5.    The isolated polypeptide of Claim 4, wherein the paralogue of EBA-175 polypeptide sequence is encoded by the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 25           6.    An isolated nucleic acid sequence comprising a paralogue of EBA-175 nucleic acid sequence.
- 30           7.    The isolated nucleic acid sequence of Claim 6, wherein the paralogue of EBA-175 nucleic acid sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
8.    A vector comprising a paralogue of EBA-175 nucleic acid sequence.
- 35           9.    The vector of Claim 8, wherein the paralogue of EBA-175 nucleic acid sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

10. A recombinant host cell comprising a paralogue of EBA-175 nucleic acid sequence.

5 11. The recombinant host cell of Claim 10, wherein the paralogue of EBA-175 nucleic acid sequence comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

10 12. A recombinant host cell comprising the vector of claim 8.

13. A method for an immune response to *Plasmodium falciparum* merozoites in a patient, the method comprising administration to the patient of an immunologically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an isolated polypeptide comprising a paralogue of EBA-175 polypeptide sequence.

15 14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the paralogue of EBA-175 polypeptide sequence is encoded by the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

20 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising administration to the patient of an immunologically effective amount of an isolated SABP binding domain polypeptide.

25 16. A recombinant method for making a paralogue of EBA-175 polypeptide, comprising:  
expressing the vector of claim 8 in a host cell; and  
isolating the paralogue of EBA-175 polypeptide from  
30 said host cell.

17. An isolated antibody, wherein the antibody binds a 5' cysteine rich region of an EBA-175 protein paralogue from a *Plasmodium* species.

35 18. The isolated antibody of Claim 17, wherein the 5' cysteine rich region is a region II.

19. The isolated antibody of Claim 18, wherein the 5' cysteine rich region is a region II/F2.

5            20. The isolated antibody of Claim 17, wherein the antibody inhibits binding of an EBA-175 protein to a red blood cell.